

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A toner for developing an electrostatic image, said toner containing toner particles comprising, at least, a binder resin, a colorant, a charge control agent, and a parting agent, and wherein:

a volume average particle diameter (D_v) of said toner particles is 3 to 10 μm ;

a ratio (D_v/D_p) of said volume average particle diameter (D_v) to a number average particle diameter (D_p) of said toner particles is 1 to 1.3;

an average circle degree of said toner particles is 0.93 to 0.995; and

location parameter of island-shaped separate phase is 25 number % or more,

wherein the location parameter is the percentage of such sectional photo images of toner particles where a maximum diameter of island-shaped separate phase is 1 μm or more and an outermost portion of said island-shaped separate phase is present at the depth of 0.01 to 0.15 time of the particle diameter of each toner particle under the surface of said toner particle,

among sectional photo images of said toner particles having an island-shaped separate phase and a particle diameter in the range of 0.6 to 1.2 time of said volume average particle diameter,

when said toner particles are embedded in a resin, a thin slice of an embedded product is cut off, sectional images of said toner particles in said thin slice are photographed with an electron

microscope, and in resulting photographs sectional photo images of said toner particles are observed in resulting photographs.

2. The toner for developing the electrostatic image according to claim 1, wherein the location parameter of island-shaped separate phase is 35 number % or more.

3. The toner for developing the electrostatic image according to claim 1, wherein the location parameter of island-shaped separate phase is 45 number % or more.

4. The toner for developing the electrostatic image according to claim 1, which is negatively charge-able.

5. The toner for developing the electrostatic image according to claim 1, which has a tetrahydrofuran-extractable component content of 10 to 80% by weight.

6. The toner for developing the electrostatic image according to claim 1, which has a core-shell structure.

7. The toner for developing the electrostatic image according to claim 1, which has an acid value of 5 mg KOH/g or less.

8. The toner for developing the electrostatic image according to claim 1, which has an acid value of 3 mg KOH/g or less.

9. The toner for developing the electrostatic image according to claim 1, which has an amine value of 3.25 mg HCl/g or less.

10. The toner for developing the electrostatic image according to claim 1, which has an amine value of 3 mg HCl/g or less.

11. The toner for developing the electrostatic image according to claim 1, which has an average circle degree of 0.95 to 0.995.

12. The toner for developing the electrostatic image according to claim 1, which has an average circle degree of 0.96 to 0.995.

13. The toner for developing the electrostatic image according to claim 1, wherein said parting agent is a polyfunctional ester compound.

14. The toner for developing the electrostatic image according to claim 1, wherein said charge control agent is a charge control resin having a weight average molecular weight of 2,000 to 50,000.

15. The toner for developing the electrostatic image according to claim 1, wherein said binder resin is selected from a group consisting of polystyrene, styrene-butyl acrylate copolymer, polyester resin, and epoxy resin.

16. The toner for developing the electrostatic image according to claim 1, wherein said charge control agent is a polymer whose

side chain has a sulfonic acid group or a salt thereof.

17. The toner for developing the electrostatic image according to claim 1, wherein said colorant is a copper phthalocyanine compound or a derivative thereof.

18. The toner for developing the electrostatic image according to claim 1, further comprising an external additive.